

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 3, line 16:

One aspect [The 1st invention] of the present invention is a group forming system comprising:

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[The 2nd invention] Another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus comprising:

At page 5, line 15:

[The 3rd invention] Still another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention], wherein said apparatus further comprises activity judging means of judging a degree of activity of the group on the basis of a history and/or a frequency of postings of information to the group from the user belonging to the group, and

At page 6, line 5:

[The 4th invention] Yet still another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention], wherein said apparatus further comprises:

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[The 5th invention] Still yet another aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention], wherein said apparatus further comprises monitoring means of monitoring plural sets of information which are posted to the group from the user belonging to the group, and

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[The 6th invention] A further aspect of the present invention is a group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention], wherein said apparatus further comprises:

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[The 7th invention] A still further aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

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[The 8th invention] A yet further aspect of the present invention is a group forming method [according to 7th invention], wherein, in said accumulating step, also information related to the classified groups is accumulated, and

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[The 9th invention] A still yet further aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

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[The 10th invention] An additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

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[The 11th invention] A still additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

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[The 12th invention] A yet additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method [according to 11th invention], wherein the provision of the provided information on the basis of the predetermined criterion includes the steps of: on the basis of at least one of personal information and preference information of a user belonging to the group, judging whether the user has known the keyword or not; and, if it is judged that the user has not yet known the keyword, providing the provided information.

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[The 13th invention] A still yet additional aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising:

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[The 14th invention] A supplementary aspect of the present invention is a group forming method comprising the steps of:

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[The 15th invention] A still supplementary aspect of the present invention is a group forming method [according to the 14th invention], wherein the history of posted information is stored in the form of a pair of keyword and the number of postings of the keyword.

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[The 16th invention] A yet supplementary aspect of the present invention is a group forming method [according to the 14th invention], wherein the condition is a keyword and a lower limit of the number of postings of the keyword to the group.

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[The 17th invention] A still yet supplementary aspect of the present invention is a program for causing a computer to function as a whole or a part of said accumulating means, said classifying means, and said determining and notifying means of said group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention].

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[The 18th invention] Another aspect of the present invention is a program for causing a computer to perform a whole or a part of said steps of said group forming method [according to any one of 7th to 16th inventions].

At page 14, line 20:

[The 19th invention] Still another aspect of the present invention is a medium which carries a program for causing a computer to function as a whole or a part of said accumulating means, said classifying means, and said determining and notifying means of said group forming apparatus [according to 2nd invention], said medium being processable by a computer.

At page 15, line 1:

[The 20th invention] Yet still another aspect of the present invention is a medium which carries a program for causing a computer to perform a whole or a part of said steps of said group forming method according to any one of [7th to 16th inventions], said medium being processable by a computer.